

Options Proposed for Building Parent Representation and Leadership

Short-Term Strategies:

- Allow multiple alternates for SICC parent representatives
- Have a mentor/guide who helps them interpret and process the information, introduces them to other board members, encourages them to share their parent perspective
- Establishment of options for video/audio representation through teleconferencing into the meeting
- Provide on-site child care
- Shift to quarterly meetings
- Allow parent alternates to serve as temporary members
- Give advanced notice of the primary topics of discussion to parents, with supporting paperwork

Long-Term Strategies:

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parent leadership development, which includes
 - Build a mentorship program
 - Develop a parent support network and/or link with existing networks, which give parents the following:
 - Colleagues who face similar parenting issues
 - The opportunity to gain the views of other parents prior to a meeting in order to represent a broader set of parent wishes
 - Offer parent leadership training, with content and strategies that build both knowledge and skills in these areas –
 - First Steps and broader disability information
 - Policy
 - Leadership
 - Communication
 - Offer certification credential
 - Link with a network for accessing resources and information
 - Make an online chat room or other mechanism for parents to connect electronically
- Cultivate a RICC/SICC parent leadership community, and possibly allow any of them to serve as alternates on the SICC
- Get names of potential parent leaders from multiple sources far in advance
- Build leadership that progresses from local to regional to statewide involvement
- Consider having at least one parent slot designated to a parent organization
- Link with other parent leadership development initiatives:
 - ECCS Work, particularly on Goal # 2: Missouri's children are raised in a safe, stable, supportive, and nurturing family environment.
 - Partners in Policy-Making
 - Family Voices
 - Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Councils

- Step Up to Leadership (12-week Training Institute sponsored by MACA and Outreach/Extension)
- MPACT
- MO Developmental Disabilities Resources Center – particularly their Volunteer/Leadership Network
- Others?
- Adopt parent-friendly practices and simple supports:
 - Online training options
 - Teleconferencing meeting options
 - Name tags with SICC members' real names and representation (even for agency alternates)
 - Relaxed dress code for meetings
 - On-site child care